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**WHISTLE!**

**LET'S READ TOGETHER**

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



THE TANK ENGINE  
& FRIENDS

**THOMAS**

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**whistle!**

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**14th Oct 1998**



**THOMAS**  
**THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS**

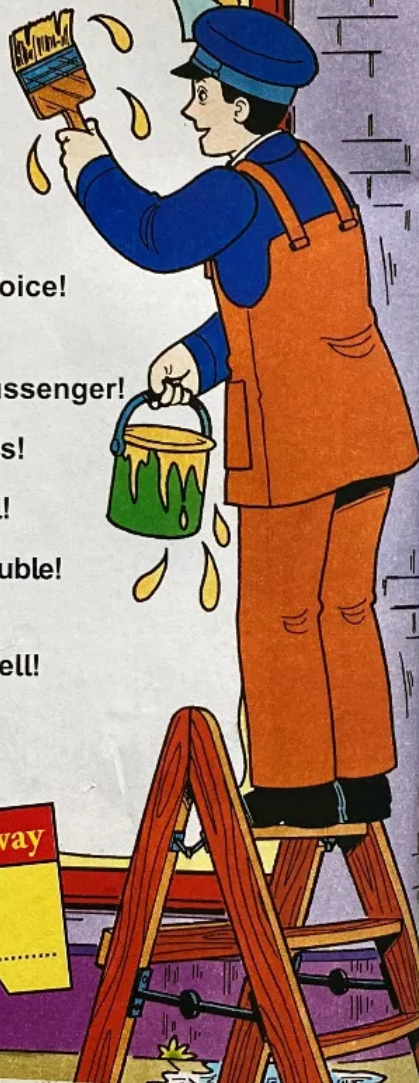


# Hello, everybody!

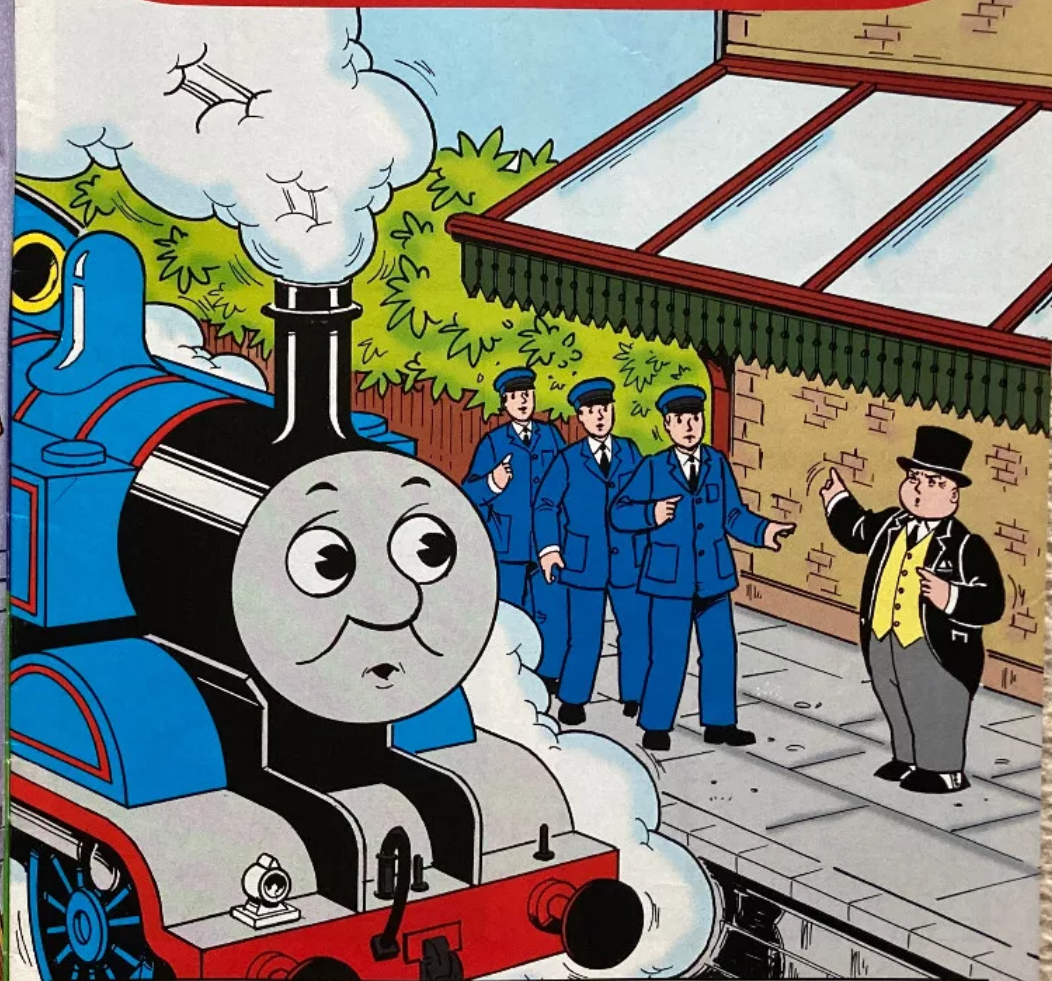
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**Island of Sodor Railway**  
This comic belongs to .....



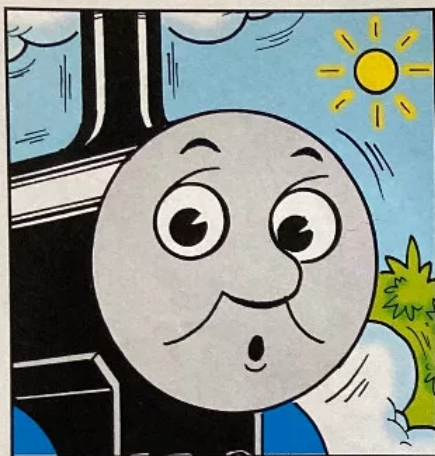
# No Joking!



1. One day, the Fat Controller had a meeting with the stationmasters. As it finished, he came out saying, "Well it's bad for your health and a lot of people don't like it!"

2. He continued, "I'll get the..." Suddenly, the Stationmaster whistled and Thomas couldn't hear properly as the Fat Controller ended, "NO SMOKING' signs up next week!"

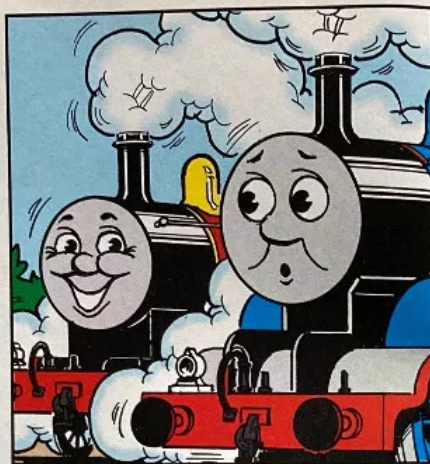




3. Thomas misheard the Fat Controller and was stunned! "NO JOKING' signs up next week! That's not fair! I'll have to tell the others about this!" he puffed, seriously.



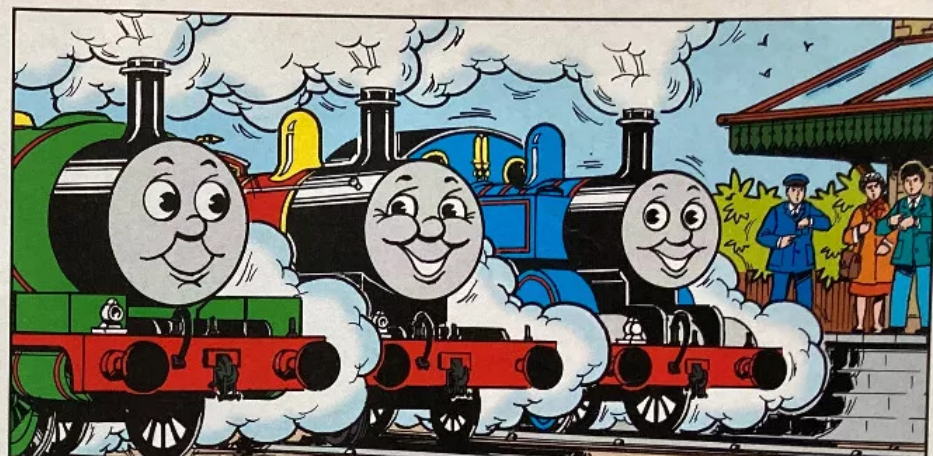
5. James laughed, "Why would he do that?" Thomas replied, "He said it's bad for your health and people don't like it!" James grinned, "Some of your jokes are bad, Thomas!"



4. At Wellsworth, worried Thomas met James, "You won't believe this, but the Fat Controller said he's going to put 'NO JOKING' signs up at all the stations next week!"



6. Thomas soon told all the other engines. "If you know any jokes, tell them now because the 'NO JOKING' signs will be up next week!" he told Duck when he was at the harbour.



7. The jokes started. Percy called to Thomas, "What's a spaceman's favourite game?" Thomas laughed, "That's an old one Percy, it's astronauts and crosses!"



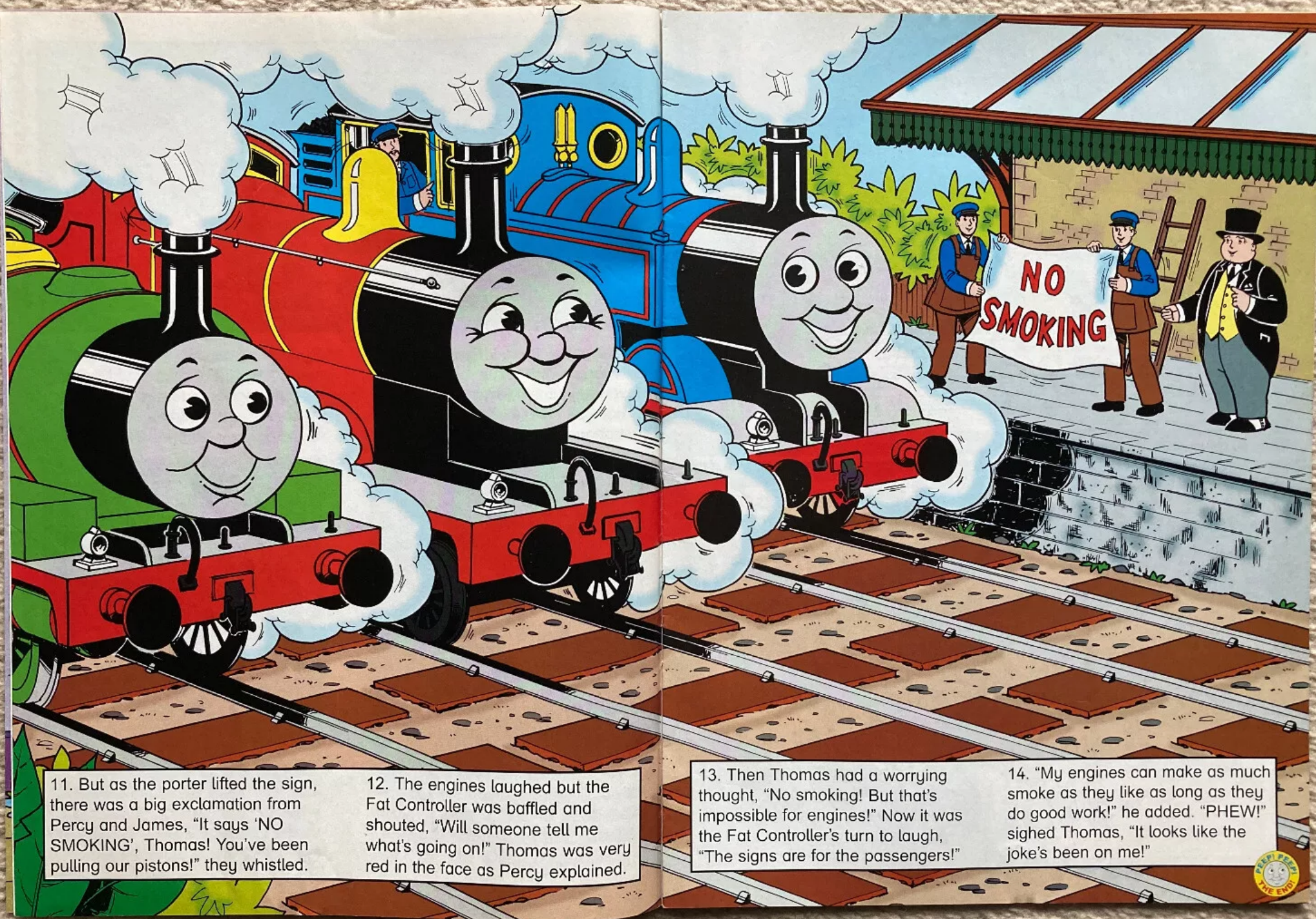
9. He chuckled and then said, "Pipe down, everyone, and get some work done, please!" Thomas winked to Percy and whispered, "You see, the railway is getting very serious!"

8. James joined in, "What can fly underwater?" Thomas and Percy couldn't get it so James chuckled, "A bee in a submarine!" They all laughed, even the Fat Controller!



10. The week of joking was over. Thomas, Percy and James were all in the Main Station as a porter put up the first sign. "Here it comes, the fun stops here!" groaned Thomas.





11. But as the porter lifted the sign, there was a big exclamation from Percy and James, "It says 'NO SMOKING', Thomas! You've been pulling our pistons!" they whistled.

12. The engines laughed but the Fat Controller was baffled and shouted, "Will someone tell me what's going on!" Thomas was very red in the face as Percy explained.

13. Then Thomas had a worrying thought, "No smoking! But that's impossible for engines!" Now it was the Fat Controller's turn to laugh, "The signs are for the passengers!"

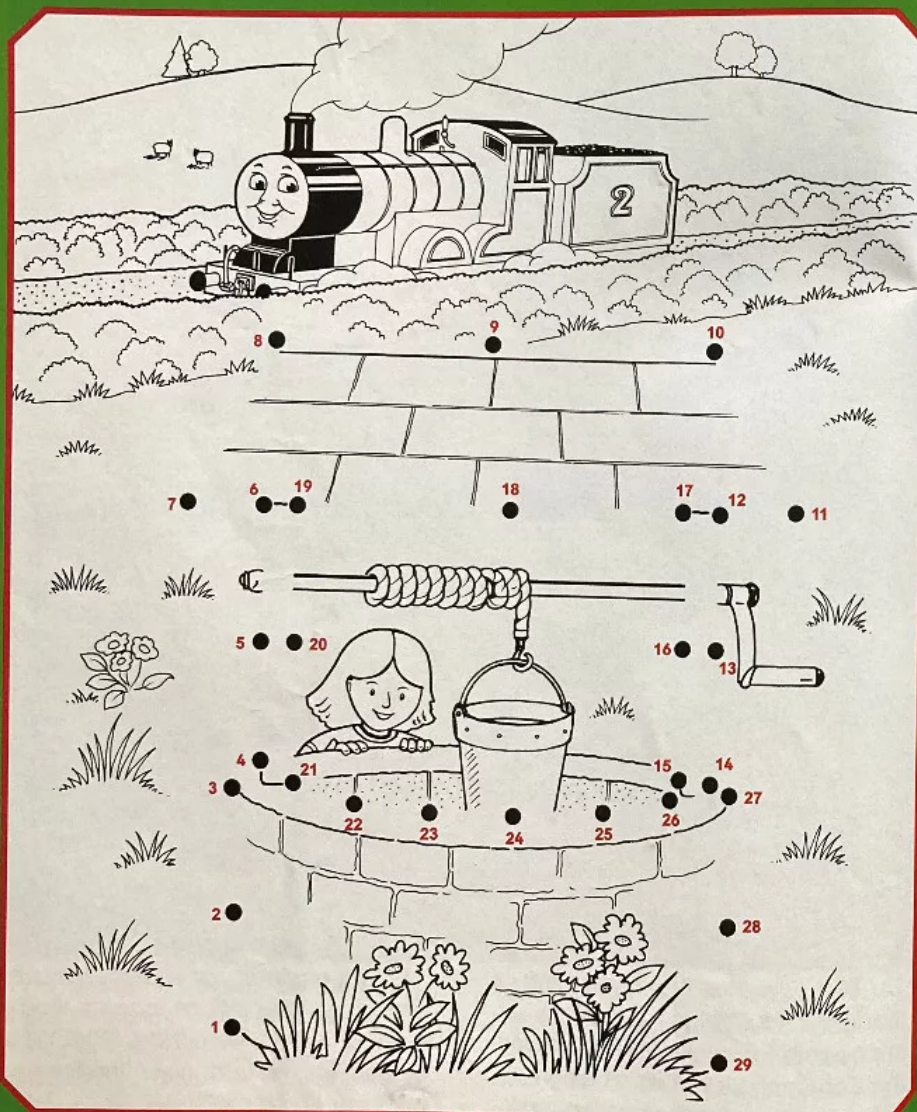
14. "My engines can make as much smoke as they like as long as they do good work!" he added. "PHEW!" sighed Thomas, "It looks like the joke's been on me!"





# Dot to dot!

Edward goes by with a swish! Where does Bridget make her wish?



Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

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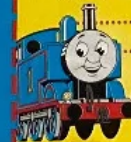
You'll find token 1 below. Look out for token 2 in the next issue, on sale from 15th October!

### THOMAS TOKEN

Name:

Address:

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



## • Thomas Loses His Voice! •

One day Thomas woke up feeling a little under the weather. He wasn't sure what was wrong until he went to say hello to Percy. He opened his mouth but absolutely nothing came out! Percy thought Thomas was ignoring him. "Be like that then!" huffed Percy, annoyed with Thomas. "Oh dear, I've lost my voice!" thought Thomas. The little engine wanted to tell someone his trouble.

At Knapworth station he steamed right up to Gordon and tried to whisper. "I've lost my voice!" he croaked, but Gordon couldn't hear him. "What are you doing in my siding you cheeky young engine?" snorted Gordon. "Get out of my way.

I've important work to do!"

At the harbour station, Duck met Thomas and told him a joke.

Duck had heard the joke early that morning from one of his schoolboy passengers, and had been dying to tell someone all day. "What do sea monsters have for dinner? Fish and ships!" he laughed. Thomas couldn't even laugh or make a sound.

"Well!" sniffed Duck. "Don't laugh then, you old stick-in-the-mud!"

Now Thomas was feeling really fed up. He was always ready for a joke, and he hated being called names - especially when he couldn't answer back!

By the time Thomas had finished work for the day, he was so annoyed he was almost ready to burst.

Later, Edward came up to him, and he said kindly, "I hear you haven't been yourself today, Thomas.

What's the matter?"

Now unknown to Thomas, he had been quiet so long that his voice had got better and it had come back. He shouted as loud as he could, "I've lost my voice!" he boomed.

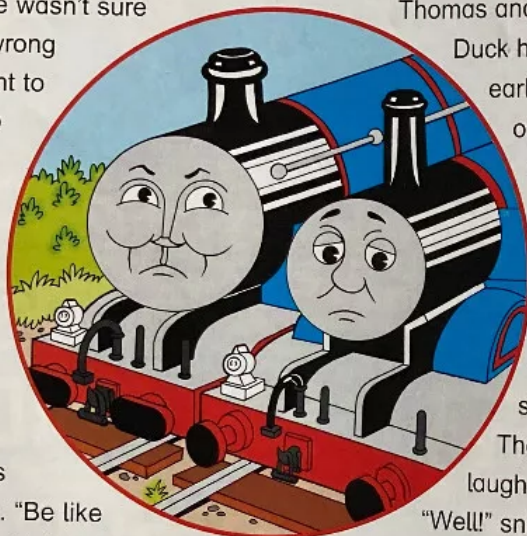
Edward and all the other engines looked at him in surprise. "I beg your pardon?" asked Edward. Thomas roared out, "I've lost my voice, and I can't say a thing or make a sound!"

How all the engines laughed. "But Thomas," chuckled Percy, "we can hear you perfectly. In fact you're really shouting your head off!"

Thomas suddenly realised that

his voice had come back. The engines were all laughing at him as the Fat Controller came by. "What's the joke?" the Fat Controller asked the engines. "Thomas is just telling us very loudly that he has lost his voice," chuckled Edward. "He gets sillier every day!"

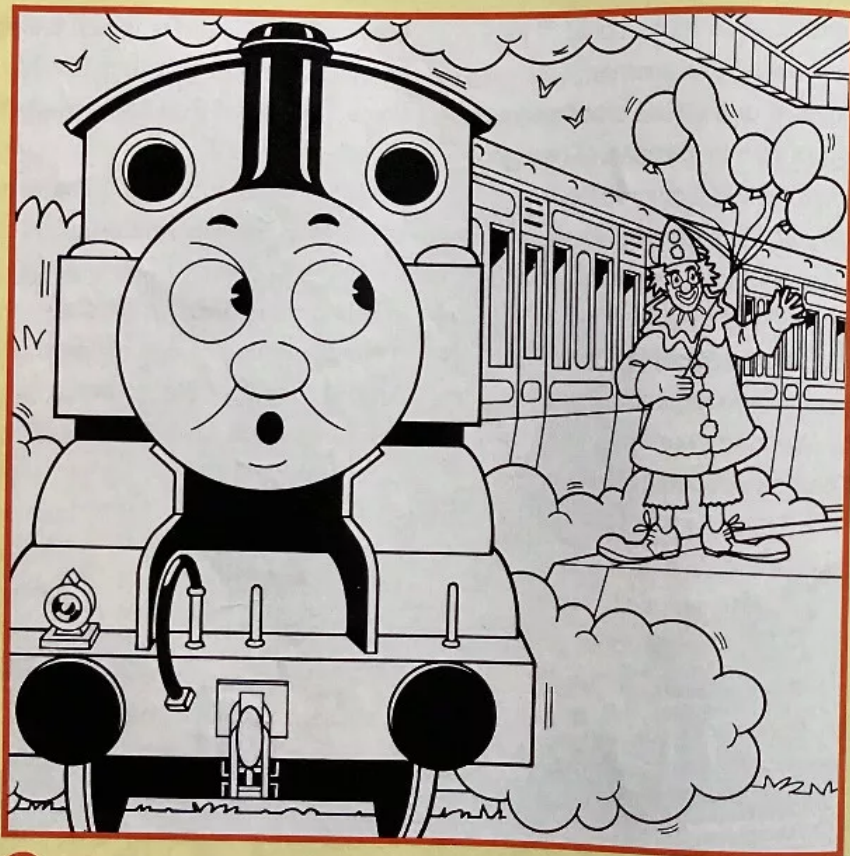
"Well I'm alright now!" Thomas spluttered. He was embarrassed but he was so pleased to be able to speak again he didn't mind the others laughing at him. After all, it is hard to tell people you've lost your voice when you can't speak, isn't it?





A read & colour story

## The Funny Passenger!



**1** It was an afternoon full of surprises for Thomas. He was pulling Annie and Clarabel along his branch line, puffing from station to station. As the next one came into view, Thomas saw a most unusual passenger waiting on the

platform for the train. "Peeep! A clown!" whistled Thomas in amazement. "Has he got lost from his circus?" whispered Annie. "There isn't one on the island just now," replied Thomas. "I wonder where he is going?"



**2** The Fat Controller was waiting at the next station. He was carrying a large box. "Right on time, Thomas. Well done!" said the Fat Controller. "Er, thank you Sir," spluttered

Thomas, surprised again that the Fat Controller wasn't even puzzled to find a clown in the carriage. At the next station, the Fat Controller and the funny clown got off the train.





3 Just then, two excited children carrying presents walked onto the platform and were heading for the waiting room. Thomas could see a

children's birthday party through the window. The Fat Controller held open the door and announced. "Boys and girls, meet Coco the clown!"

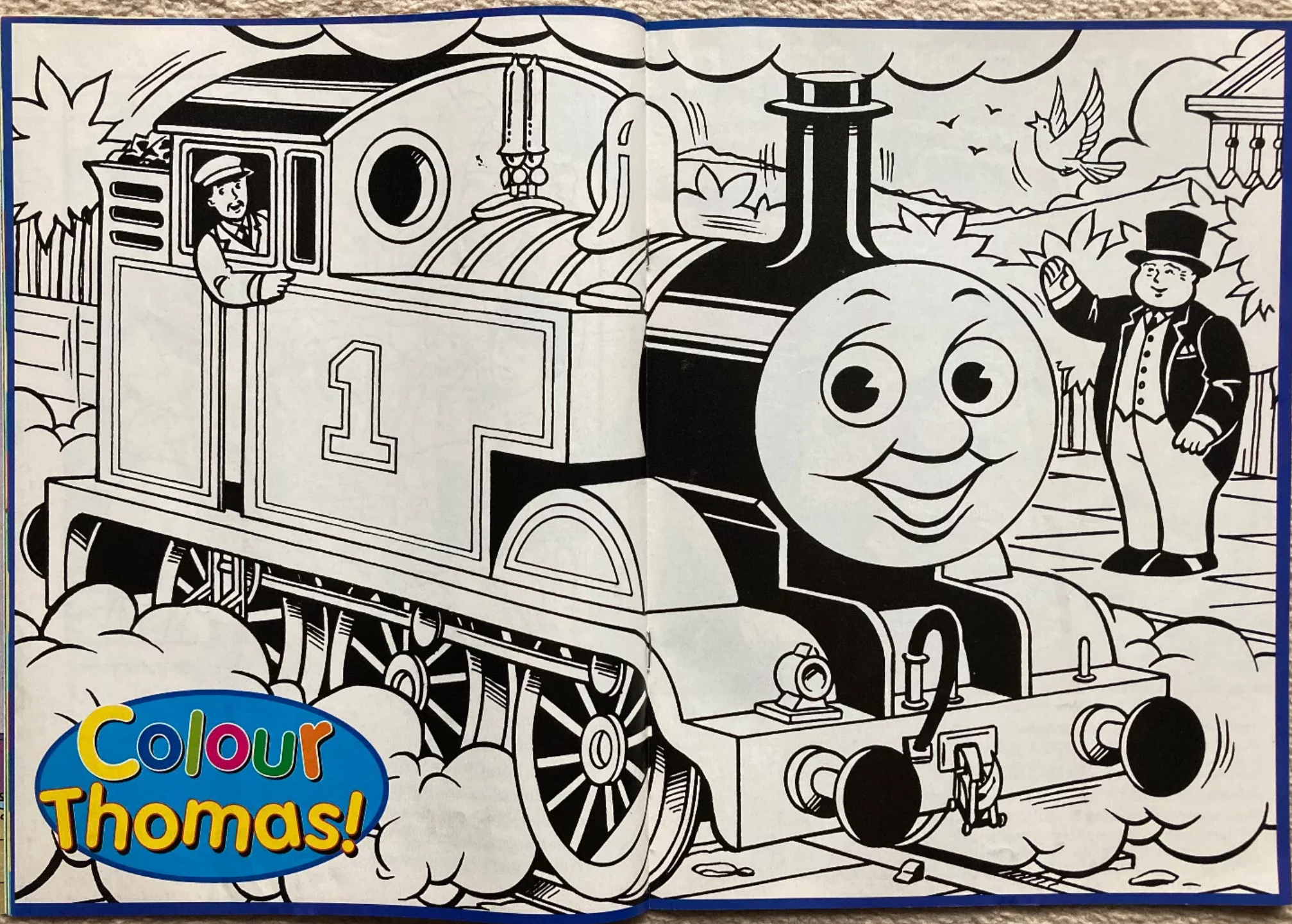


4 The funny passenger began giving out balloons. "The clown is the party entertainer!" exclaimed Thomas. But a station is a surprising place for a party," he added. "Indeed," answered the Fat Controller. "The birthday girl's parents wanted

to have a surprise party for her in an unusual place, and I suggested here. Now I must light the candles on the cake." He opened the box he had been carrying. It was a final surprise for Thomas. The cake was in the shape of the happy little engine himself!

**The end**



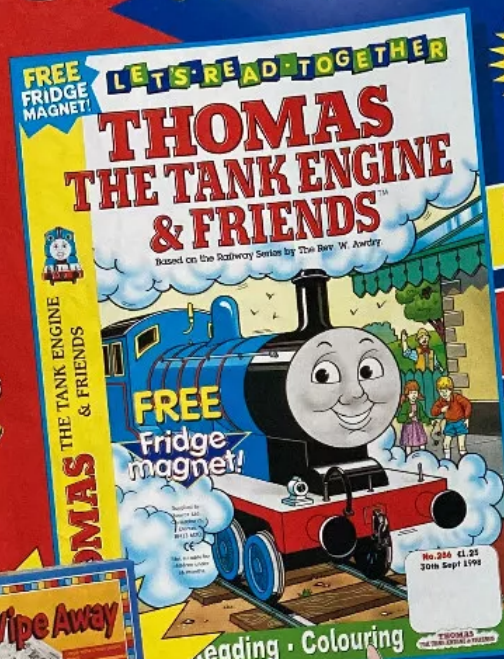


Colour  
Thomas!



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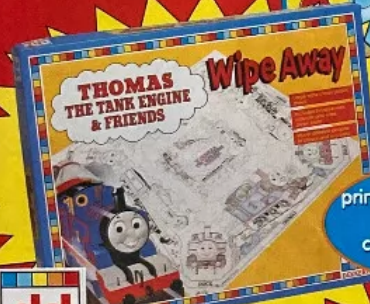


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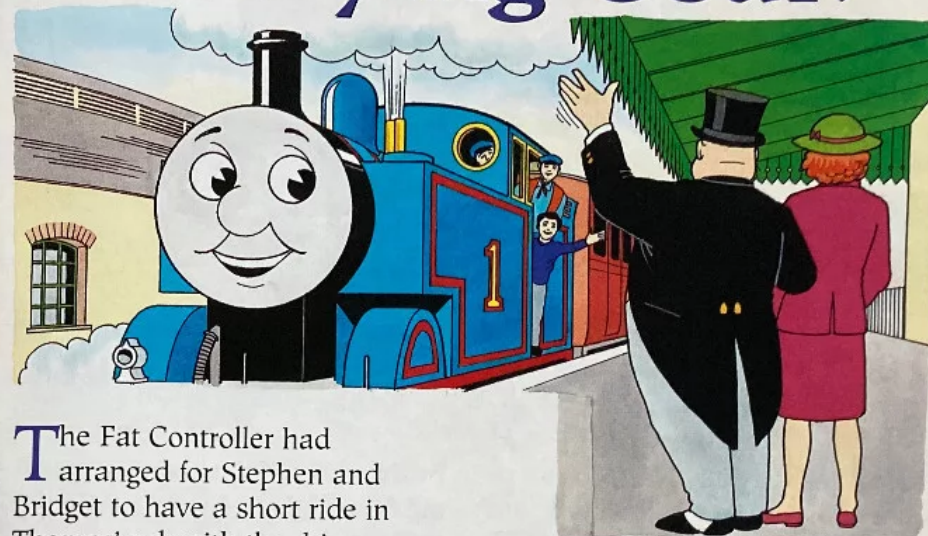
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## Carrying Coal!



The Fat Controller had arranged for Stephen and Bridget to have a short ride in Thomas' cab with the driver and fireman. "Peep! Peep!" Thomas whistled loudly, as he puffed steadily along, happy that his young friends were aboard.

The Fat Controller and Lady Hatt heard him returning to the Main Station. Thomas pulled up carefully. Then his driver helped

Stephen and Bridget down onto the platform. "That was great! Thanks, Grandpa!" cried Stephen. "Yes, and we didn't mind all that smoke and steam at all!" smiled Bridget. "Gracious!" protested Lady Hatt. "Just look at you both!" Stephen and Bridget were covered in coal dust and sooty smudges. "Your clothes will need washing," Lady Hatt went on, "and so will you!"

Next morning, the children were still talking about yesterday's treat. Lady Hatt had given them clean clothes to wear. "I wish that we could have another ride on Thomas today," said Bridget. "I've a much better







idea," replied Lady Hatt, "one that will keep you both clean."

After breakfast, she took her grandchildren for a bus ride on Bertie, to see a canal. It was near Thomas' branch line. "You won't get messy here," said Lady Hatt, as Bertie pulled up at a bus stop and all three stepped out.

A long, thin boat was tied up



by the canal. The skipper was an old friend. "Let's go and say hello to Captain Jack in his narrowboat," smiled Lady Hatt.

Suddenly, she stumbled. Luckily, Lady Hatt did not fall over but the heel dropped off one of her shoes. "Dear me! I'll have to get it mended right away," she said. "I'll take care of these two young landlubbers," called Captain Jack.

Lady Hatt was very grateful. No sooner had she left when a lorry arrived and loaded Captain Jack's narrowboat with coal. "I must deliver this along the canal," he told the children.

Next moment, Thomas came puffing slowly into a siding. "Thomas has almost run out of coal, Captain Jack," called the



driver. "Can you spare any?"

"Aye, aye!" the captain laughed.

Stephen and Bridget helped Thomas' guard, his fireman and Captain Jack to carry buckets of coal between the narrowboat and Thomas. Then Thomas steamed thankfully on his way.

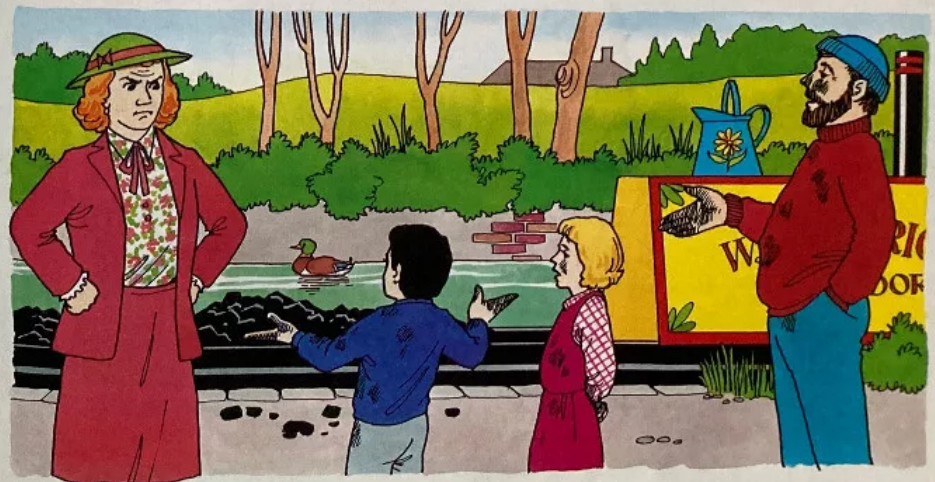
When Lady Hatt returned, she couldn't believe her eyes. The children were very dirty indeed!

Lady Hatt was quite cross! "Oh, my! You're even messier than before!" Lady Hatt gasped. "It was an emergency! We can explain," said the children. "I think I'd better explain," added Captain Jack. "It's my fault."

"Well, you two can't stay out looking like that," Lady Hatt told the children. "Whatever shall I do with you?" "We could wait here and go home in Thomas," said Stephen.

"Very well," frowned Lady Hatt. "But you're both too grubby to travel in Annie or Clarabel with me. You'll have to ride in Thomas' cab again, after all!"

THE END





## • The Wishing Well! •



1. One morning, Thomas stopped at a village station and overheard some tourists, "It says in the travel guide that there's a wishing well in this village!" said a woman.

2. Thomas wanted to know more so his driver explained, "Normally a well is for getting water from the ground, but at a wishing well you throw in a coin and make a wish!"

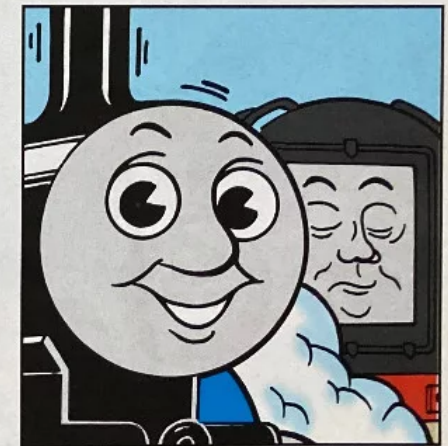


3. Young Thomas was very excited at the thought of making a secret wish! As the tourists left the station he whistled, "Throw in a coin for me, I want to make a wish too!"

4. Thomas left the station and saw the people at the well. They waved to Thomas who called, "I've made my wish!" His driver smiled, "Keep it a secret then, Thomas!"

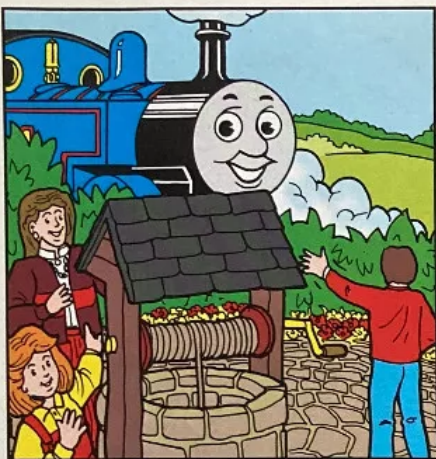


5. Later, Thomas passed Diesel who was dozing in a siding, "Morning, Diesel!" he peeped. Diesel opened one eye and replied, "Morning, sir! How are you to-day?"

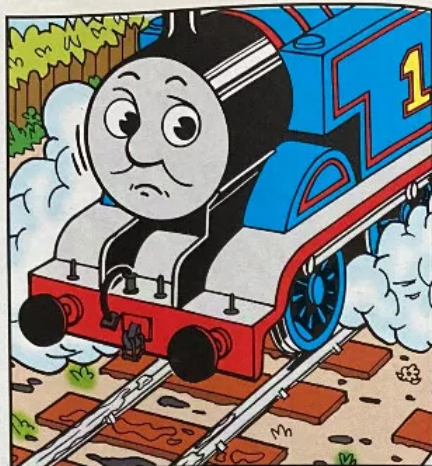


6. Thomas whistled, "It worked! I wished that Diesel would be nice to me and he was!" Thomas' driver laughed, "Diesel didn't even notice who he was talking to!"

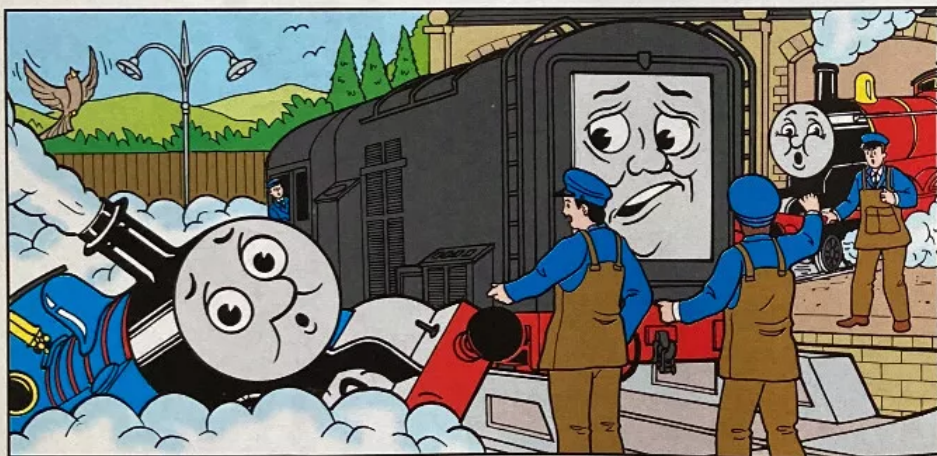




7. Later, Thomas was passing the wishing well again. Some more tourists were there so he whistled excitedly, "Throw a coin in for me, please! I want to liven things up!"



8. But nothing happened. On his way back to the shed that evening Thomas had a little moan, "My second wish didn't come true, maybe no-one threw a coin for me!"



9. Diesel was in the Station Yard as Thomas arrived. Thomas braked and suddenly disaster struck! "HELLLLP!" Thomas cried, "Someone's spilt oil on the lines!"

10. Thomas lost control and skidded into the turntable pit! "CRASHHH!" It was the most sudden stop he had ever made. It even shook Diesel who looked down worriedly!



11. The Fat Controller was soon on the scene to sort out the mess. He was very stern, "Oil on the tracks is a serious matter, Diesel, and so is an engine in the turntable pit!" Poor Thomas was speechless and shaky but the Fat Controller calmed him down. Then he gave an order, "Henry, I want the breakdown truck here as soon as possible!" Henry puffed importantly, "Yes sir!"

12. Thomas, was lifted from the pit. His driver groaned, "No-one would wish for a day to end like this!" Suddenly Thomas exclaimed, "That's it! My second wish did come true! I wished something exciting would happen!" The Fat Controller smiled, "This had nothing to do with a wishing well, Thomas, and I never wish to see this kind of excitement ever again!"







# The mail train!

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

## Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,

There are twins that work on your railway, number 9 and number 10, and there is one named Donald but I don't know what the other twin is called.

From Andrew Simpson, aged 6.

Donald and Douglas are the Scottish twins. They are identical except for their name plates and numbers. They hate to be parted and they enjoy a joke, especially when outsiders can't tell them apart. But they're hard workers and particularly good at ploughing snow.



If we print your **STAR LETTER**, you will receive a pair of Playcases from Bluebird Toys® as a prize!

6 year old Stuart Will drew this picture of Gordon showing off how fast he can go!



## Prize Poem!

Edward Wozencroft, aged 7, has made up this poem about his favourite engine Edward!

Edward the engine is painted bright blue,

On his side he wears number 2.

He puffs along, he has lots to do,

As he hurries by he whistles, whoo, whoo!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Kaleidoscope!



Edward's really grinning in this picture drawn by 5 year old Adam Pettitt!

Jasper Bell, 6½ years old, has drawn this picture of Daisy who reminds him of his nanny!



Thank you to Arnie Voysey, aged 4½, for sending in this lovely picture of Percy!

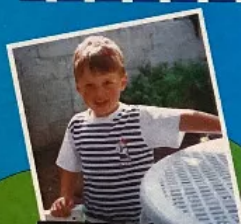


## Happy Birthday!

To  
Max Woodward,  
aged 3, Sam Hubert,  
aged 6 & Calum  
Shakespeare,  
aged 3!

Also to  
James Tully, aged 3,  
and special belated  
birthday wishes to  
Jordan Day, aged 2!

Remember  
to send in your  
birthday details  
3 months before your  
birthday!



Ross Weir,  
aged 5!



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aged 4!



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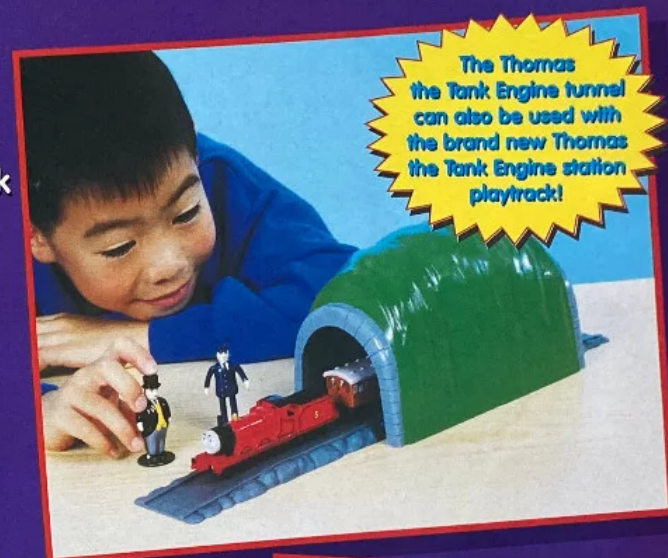
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# Tunnel fun!

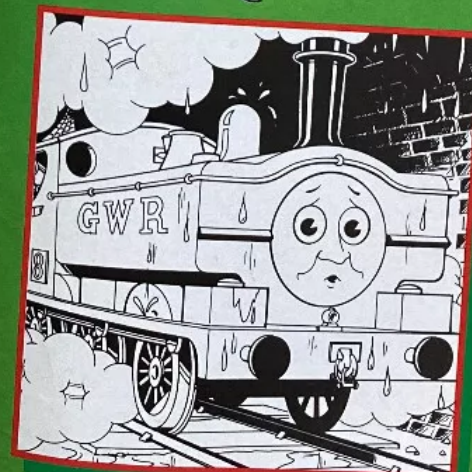
Here's your chance to win one of 10 new Thomas the Tank Engine tunnels from **ERTL**

You'll have so much fun whooshing the engines in and out of the tunnel!



The Thomas the Tank Engine tunnel can also be used with the brand new Thomas the Tank Engine station playtrack!

For your chance to win this splendid prize, just colour in this picture of Duck. The first ten out of the hat will win!



Send your coloured picture along with your name and address to:  
Thomas/Tunnel competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

All entries must be received by 21st October 1998.



This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.



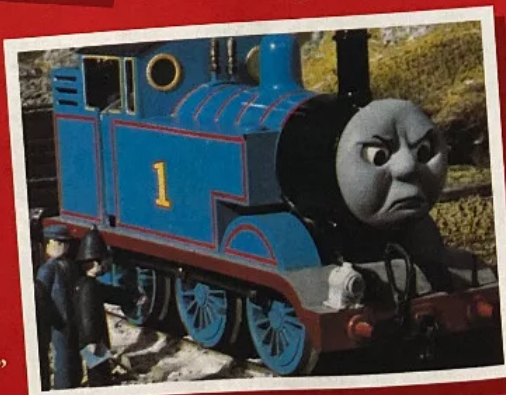
# Thomas in Trouble!

Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev. W. Awdry.

*There is a line to a quarry at the end of Thomas' branch line which goes along by the road. Thomas is always very careful there. "Peep, peep!" he whistled, then people got out of the way and he puffed slowly along.*



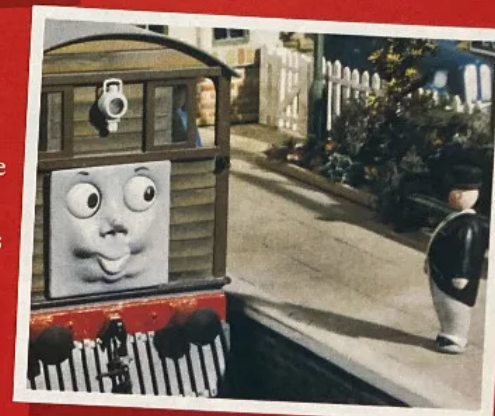
② "Where's your cow-catcher?" the policeman asked. "I don't catch cows, sir," said Thomas. "No side-plates either! Engines going on public roads must have wheel coverings and a cow-catcher. You haven't so you're dangerous." "But we've been along here hundreds of times!" the driver argued.



① One morning there was a policeman standing by the line. "Good morning!" Thomas whistled. He was sorry to see that the policeman didn't look friendly. The policeman was very cross. He said to Thomas, "It was so quiet and suddenly engines come whistling behind me!" "I'm sorry, sir. I only said good morning!" said Thomas.



④ This reminded the Fat Controller of Toby, a little tram engine he had met. A few days later Toby arrived. Toby made the trucks behave even better than Thomas did. At first Thomas was jealous, but he was so pleased when Toby rang his bell and made the policeman jump that they became firm friends.



③ The policeman wrote in his book, "**REGULAR LAW BREAKER.**" When the Fat Controller heard, he said, "Dangerous! We'll see about that!" "It's the law," said the policeman. The Fat Controller decided to make a cow-catcher for Thomas. "But I'll look like a tram!" said Thomas sadly.

*In Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends next time, you can read the story "Thomas and Bertie!"*

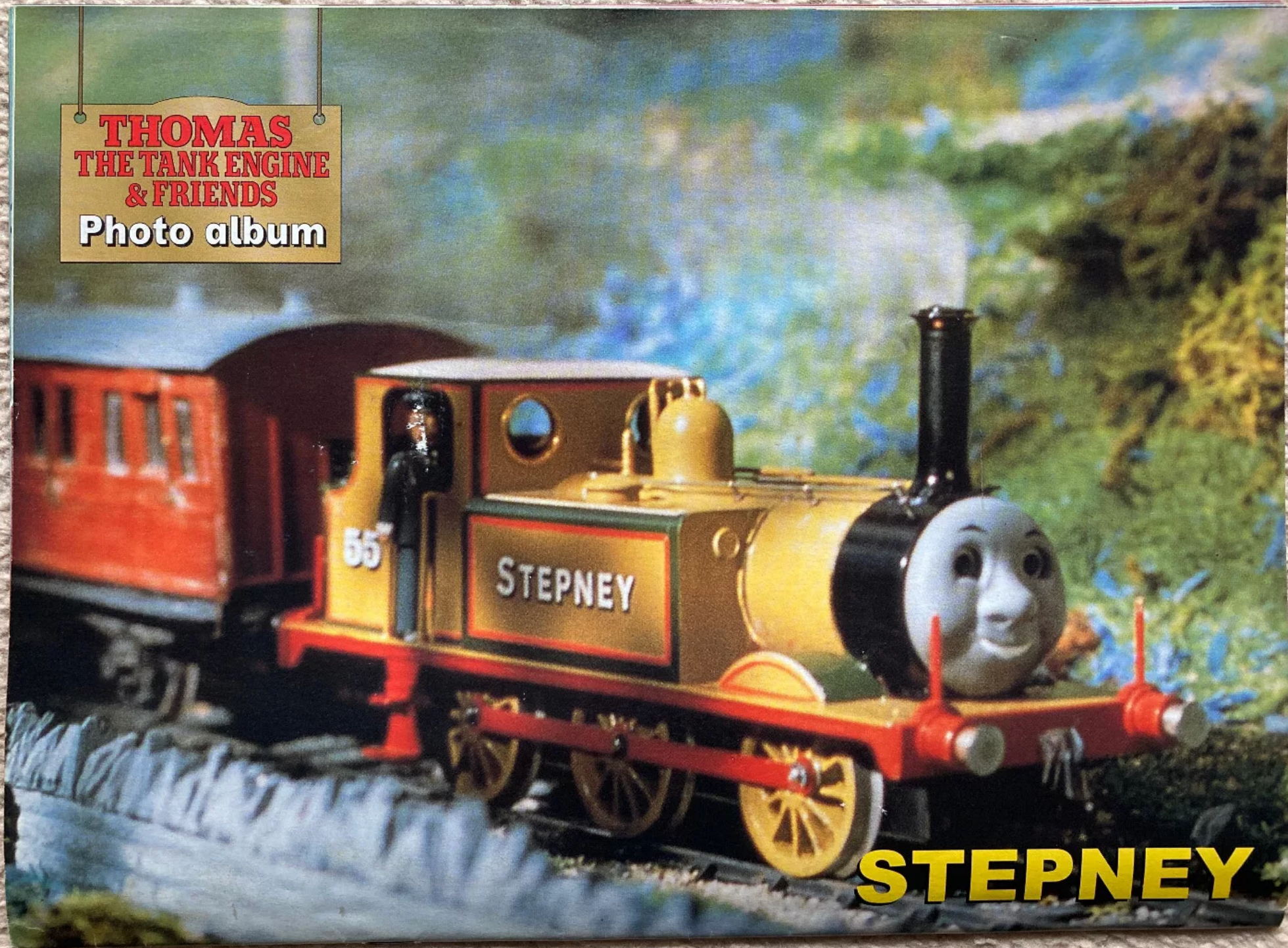
## Win a model of Thomas!

Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of Thomas from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/287 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Closing date: 21st October 1998.





**THOMAS  
THE TANK ENGINE  
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**Photo album**



**STEPNEY**